



## **Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes**

The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 8th day of November, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

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**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if Quorum is Present.**

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, with the following Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel, Jack Dean, David Smith and Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith, Michelle Alonzo, and Alternate Kris Ericson-Cano. Absent and excused were Vice-Chairwoman Bolton Commissioners Belinda Ealy, Kathy Hill, and Linda Tarin, Also present were Staff member Melinda Moritz and Leon Valley Historical Society Board Member Ruth Lyle.

**2. Review and Consider Approval of the October 11, 2018 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October 11, 2018 regular Park Commission meeting minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Dean. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**4. Reports: Activities or Events that Impact Parks or Access to Parks:**

**A. Discussion and Action – Request by the Leon Valley Historical Society (LVHS) for a Variance to Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation, Division 2. Use Regulations, Sec. 1.09.034 Additional prohibited uses and activities, to allow the San Antonio Metal Detecting Club and the Texas Association of Metal Detecting Clubs to Use Metal Detectors in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park, specifically in the Triangle Area Park and at the Huebner Cemetery, for their “Give Back Recovery Hunt” event (Ruth Lyle, LVHS ).**

Ruth Lyle of the Historical Society gave a short presentation on the upcoming "Give Back" event, to be held on January 12, 2019, and stated that the event was being offered by the American Association of Metal Detecting Clubs, specifically the Texas and San Antonio Chapters.

She then gave answers to the questions asked by the Park Commission at the previous meeting, stating that Archeologist Paul Marceau was contacted and would hopefully be in attendance at the event to collect any found artifacts. She explained that if he was unavailable, another archeologist would be present.

She then stated that they had consulted with an archeologist about digging near a grave site, but that they had said they wouldn't be sure about the possibility of finding other graves until they had reviewed the site. She noted that there had been rumors of possible other graves, but she would do everything in her power to track down any leads and dispel any rumors prior to the event. She stated that the Park Commission could give a recommendation as to whether or not to allow any digging inside the stone wall or fence at the cemetery. More general discussion was held.

Commissioner Gabriel made a motion to approve the request with the condition that no metal detecting would take place inside the stone wall of the cemetery, and that the metal detecting would be kept no further than 20 feet on each side of the trail in the Natural Area Park, but allowed in the tree grove that had housed the pig pens and other outbuildings on the Natural Area side of the Park, in the Triangle Park area, and on the Huebner-Onion Homestead. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dean and the vote was unanimously in favor.

#### **B. Discussion and Possible Action – Park Master Plan Recommendations – Create Sub-Committees (M. Moritz / Commissioners).**

Chairman Christensen addressed the Commissioners stating that in order to quicken the gathering of and facilitate recommendations for each of the Park Planning areas, he thought it would be wise to form subcommittees. He then nominated David Smith and Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith to produce recommendations for Park Zone 1, himself and Commissioner Dean for Zones 2 and 4, and Commissioners Gabriel, Alonzo and Cano for Zone 3. He noted that since there would not be a December Park meeting, then that should give them plenty of time to create or revise recommendations for each area and directed them to bring the recommendations to the January Park Commission meeting.



### **C. Discussion – Summary of Peachtree Vacant Lot Discussion from Coffee with the Council (M. Moritz).**

Staff member Moritz gave the Commissioners a handout depicting the concept that was most favored by participants at the Coffee with the Council, but explained that they wanted to have been given the option of remodeling the existing restroom facilities and not building a community room. She explained that the vote was clearly in favor of not creating a community room, but using Concept 3 and remodeling the restrooms.

Commissioner Alonzo state that she had created a plan for the vacant lot and gave a copy of the plan to each Commissioner. She noted that the changes included possible park features such as a life sized chess board, individual chess tables, with covered pavilion area, garden plots, handicapped accessible brick pathway, a turf area, historical placards, ground bubblers, public art in the form of a statue, electrical outlets for public events, lighting, remodeled pool restrooms, a wall mural, an amphitheater, and a latticed pagoda area inside the pool facility.

Commissioner Alonzo explained that the facility could be open all year long, be multi-generational, attractive to people of varied interests, and that the bubblers would provide an alternative to a full blown splash pad. She further explained that some of the events that could be held at this park would be Mommy and Me groups, movie nights, Saturday in the Park with life sized chess pieces, chess tournaments, garden club gatherings, an educational space for history and cultural activities for local schools, and a food truck spot.

With the exception of the amphitheater, the Commissioners expressed their approval of the idea. The Commissioners stated that the amphitheater would be too close to the residential structure on the lot next to the park and would cause too much noise.

### **5. Commissioner and Staff Comments.**

Commissioner Kris Ericson-Cano asked if there was a "Friends of the Park" type group in Leon Valley. She noted that a lot of the people that responded to the park survey indicated their desire to have a dog park and wanted to know if the land at Seneca and Evers belonged to the City. Staff member Moritz explained that the land was privately owned and that there was no group known as "Friends of the Park", but that an "Adopt a Spot" program had been developed and that one group had claimed

Raymond Rimkus Park for the efforts. Chairman Christensen encouraged her to try and start such a group.

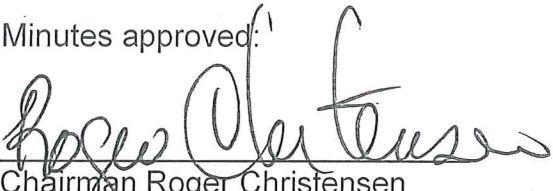
Commissioner Gabriel had requested that the latest pool survey be distributed to the Commissioners, which was done. She then explained a portion of that survey to the group. She then asked Staff if they would get her the pool financial summary, to which Ms. Moritz stated she would.

Chairman Christensen stated that the Evers Road bridge dedication ceremony would take place the coming Saturday and encouraged everyone to attend, as it would be dedicated to a fallen Marine. He then thanked everyone for their support over the year and wished them happy holidays.

## 6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes approved:

  
Chairman Roger Christensen

1-8-19  
Date